

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to update the related case information listed on page 1 of the specification.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 11-13 have been added by the present amendment. Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Simjian '144.

With reference to the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Simjian '144, the reference to Simjian '144 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by the claimed invention.

Claim 1 relates to a photographic processor which comprises a circular member, and a flexible shield member that is wrapped around an outer surface of a side wall of the circular member. As further required by claim 1, a processing path for photographic material to be processed is defined between at least the outer surface of the side wall and an inner surface of the flexible shield member. Claim 1 also requires that the processor comprises an assembly adapted to insert photographic material into the processing path and remove photographic material from the processing path. The reference to Simjian '144 does not show or suggest the specific combination of elements required by claim 1, including the claimed assembly that is adapted to insert photographic material into a processing path and remove photographic material from the processing path.

Accordingly, the reference to Simjian '144 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by claim 1.

Claims 2-7 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and set forth further unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied references. For example, these claims set forth further features of the processor as including a solution tray, as well as a support member that is adapted to rotatably support the circular member.

It is further noted that claim 4 sets forth further features of the assembly of the present invention as including a support for a cartridge that holds a first type of photographic material therein, and a pair of rollers that is adapted to at least insert a second type of photographic material into the processing path. The reference to Simjian '144 which relates to a paper processor does not show or suggest the specific features of the assembly as required by claim 4, and more specifically, does not show or suggest a processor having a support for a cartridge that holds a first type of photographic therein, and a pair of rollers that is adapted to at least insert a second type of photographic material into the processing path.

Claim 5 defines additional features of the assembly of claim 4 as including a first driving member that cooperates with the cartridge to thrust the first type of photographic material into the processing path, and a second driving member that cooperates with the pair of rollers to drive the second type of photographic material into the processing path. For the reasons noted above with respect to claim 4, the reference to Simjian '144 is not believed to show or suggest the additional features required by claim 5.

Claim 6 further defines the first driving member as being adapted to drive the processed first type of photographic material from the processing path back into the cartridge, and also defines the second driving member as being further adapted to drive the processed second type of photographic material from the processing path. The specific structure as required by claim 6 is not shown or suggested in the applied reference.

Claim 7 defines further unique features of the assembly as including a clamping portion.

Accordingly, claims 2-7 are also believed to be allowable over the reference to Simjian '144.

Claim 8 relates to a method of processing photographic material that comprises the steps of wrapping a flexible shield member around an outer surface of a circular member; thrusting a photographic material to be processed from a cartridge into a processing path defined between the outer surface of the circular and the inner surface of the flexible shield member; and rotating the circular member so as to immerse sections of the photographic material in the processing path into processing solution to process the photographic material. Based on the arguments noted above with respect to claim 1, the reference to Simjian '144 does not show or suggest the combination of steps required by claim 8, including the step of thrusting a photographic material to be processed from a cartridge into a processing path defined between an outer surface of a circular member and inner surface of a flexible shield member.

Accordingly, claim 8 is believed to be allowable over Simjian '144.

Claims 9-10 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 8 and set forth further unique features of the method of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in the applied reference.

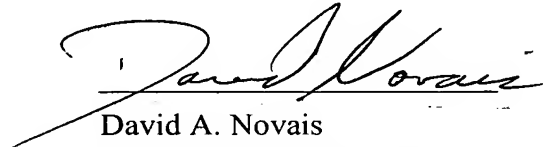
The present response also includes an additional independent claim 11 based on claim 8 but requiring that the step of inserting the photographic material into the processing path utilizes a pair of drive rollers to drive the photographic material to be processed into the processing path. The reference to Simjian '144 does not show or suggest a method for inserting photographic material into a processing path as described by claim 11.

Accordingly, claim 11 is believed to be allowable over Simjian '144.

Claims 12-13, which are based on claims 9-10, depend either directly or indirectly from claim 11 and set forth further unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggest in the applied reference. Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 1-13 are patentable, and a favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David A. Novais", written in dark ink.

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